

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Quarterly Report on Admissions and Releases in the Massachusetts Department of Correction

Second Quarter 2016





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/doc/>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trend Period: First Quarter 2014 through Second Quarter 2016

- Over the ten-quarter trend period, both the **custody**^{*} and **jurisdiction populations** continued a downward trend, with cumulative decreases of 12% (n = 1,285) in the custody population and 11.3% (n = 1,253) in the jurisdiction population. After the first quarter of 2014, there were nine consecutive quarters of decrease in both custody and jurisdiction populations.
- The **pre-trial** population experienced a decrease of 58.3% (n = 413) since the beginning of the trend period. Pre-trial detainees were at their lowest number for the trend period in the second quarter of 2016, averaging 296 detainees.
- **Criminally sentenced** inmates decreased each quarter of the trend period, ending the second quarter of 2016 with 8,972 inmates. Since the first quarter of 2014, the criminally sentenced population saw a steady decrease of 8.7% (n = 857).
- There was an average of 2,420 overall **admissions** and 2,535 **releases** per quarter, an average decrease of 116 inmates per quarter. The difference between **admissions** and **releases** resulted in female inmates decreasing by 12 inmates per quarter, while male inmates saw an average decrease of 104 inmates per quarter.
- **Criminally sentenced** inmates had an average of 729 admissions and 814 releases per quarter. The difference between admissions and releases resulted in an average decrease of 85 criminally sentenced inmates per quarter.
- Both male **criminally sentenced** admissions and releases closely mirrored the overall criminal admissions and releases trend. Female **criminally sentenced** admissions remained steady, while female criminally sentenced releases experienced a downward trend.
- During the past ten quarters, male **civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference increase of 58 inmates. Female **civil commitments** saw a cumulative difference decrease of 3 inmates over the same period. Over the trend period, overall civil admissions increased by 40.6% and overall civil releases increased by 61.9%.
- Male **pre-trial detainees** had a cumulative difference decrease of 296 detainees. Female **pre-trial detainees** had a cumulative difference decrease of 71 detainees. The cumulative difference between admissions and releases resulted in a decrease of 367 pre-trial detainees.
- Since the beginning of the trend period, male **pre-trial detainee** admissions decreased by 85.8%. This decrease in the pre-trial population was driven by the Middlesex County 52A court order[†] being vacated and Suffolk County ceasing the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody.
- Female **pre-trial detainee** admissions from Worcester County experienced a sharp decrease during the fourth quarter of 2014 due to the transfer of female pre-trial detainees to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Hampden County. From the first quarter of 2014 to the current quarter, female pre-trial admissions decreased by 26% and female pre-trial releases decreased by 27.1%.

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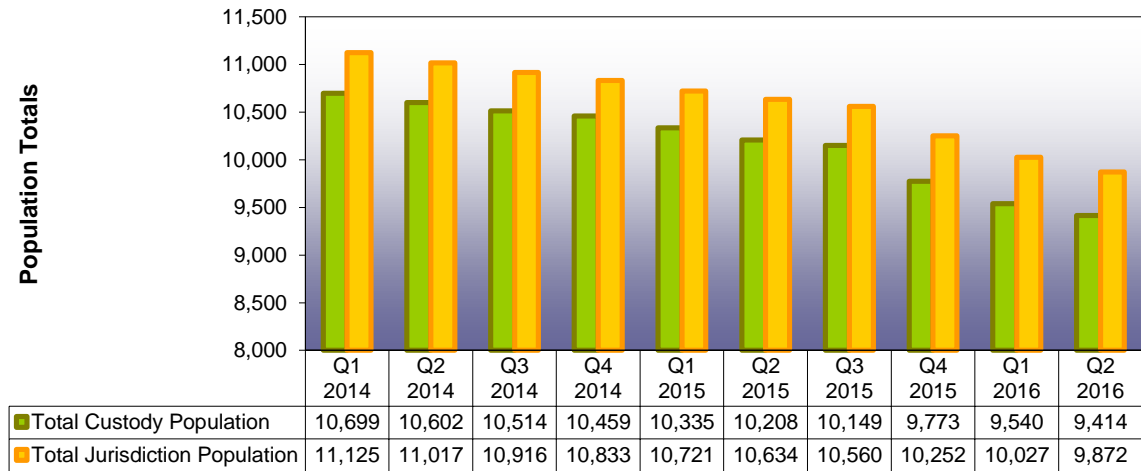
^{*} **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

[†] Pre-trial detainees could be sent directly to the MA DOC to be held awaiting trial if criteria of the 52A court order was met.

CURRENT POPULATION AND OVERALL TRENDS

Graph 1.1, below, depicts the continued downward trend over the ten-quarter period, from the first quarter of 2014 through the second quarter of 2016. During this period, there was a cumulative decrease of 1,285 (12%) inmates from the **MA DOC custody population**[‡] and 1,253 (11.3%) inmates from the **jurisdiction population**. This corresponded to an average cumulative quarterly loss of 1.2% from the custody population and 1.1% from the jurisdiction population. Between the third and fourth quarters of 2015, the custody population decreased by 3.7% (a decrease of 376 inmates), the largest decrease experienced during the trend period.

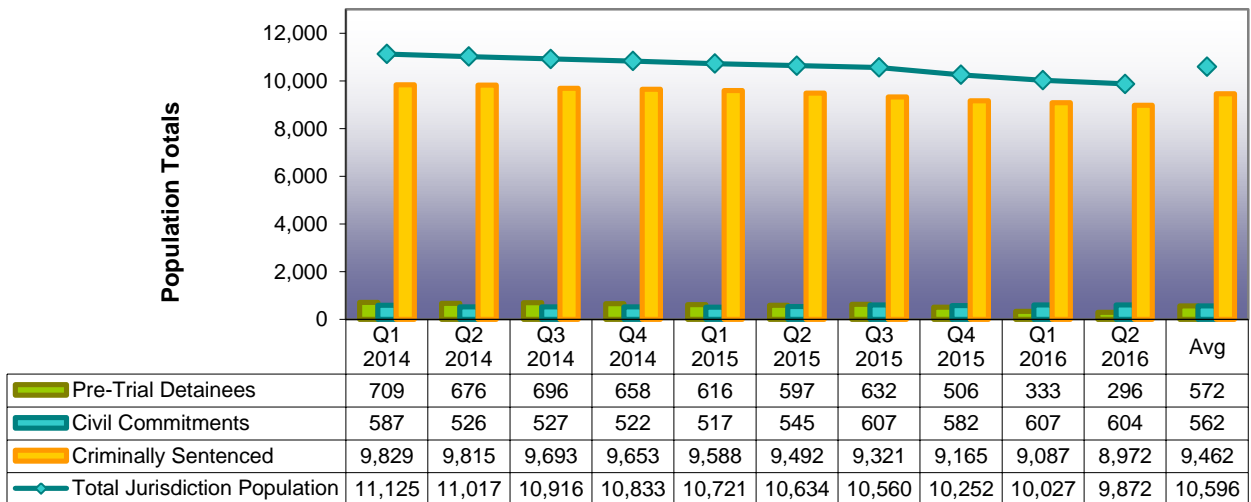
1.1 Average[∞] Quarterly Custody and Jurisdiction Population



[∞] Each quarter's population is the average of the last day of the month's count for the three months within that quarter.

Graph 1.2, below, displays the quarterly jurisdiction population by commitment type. **Pre-trial detainees** experienced a cumulative decrease of 413 detainees, a negative percent change of 58.3% since the height of the trend period. **Criminally sentenced** inmates also saw a steady downward trend, with a total decrease of 857 inmates and a negative percent change of 8.7% since the first quarter of 2014. **Civil commitments** experienced the most variability of the commitment types during the trend period, with a cumulative increase of 17 commitments.

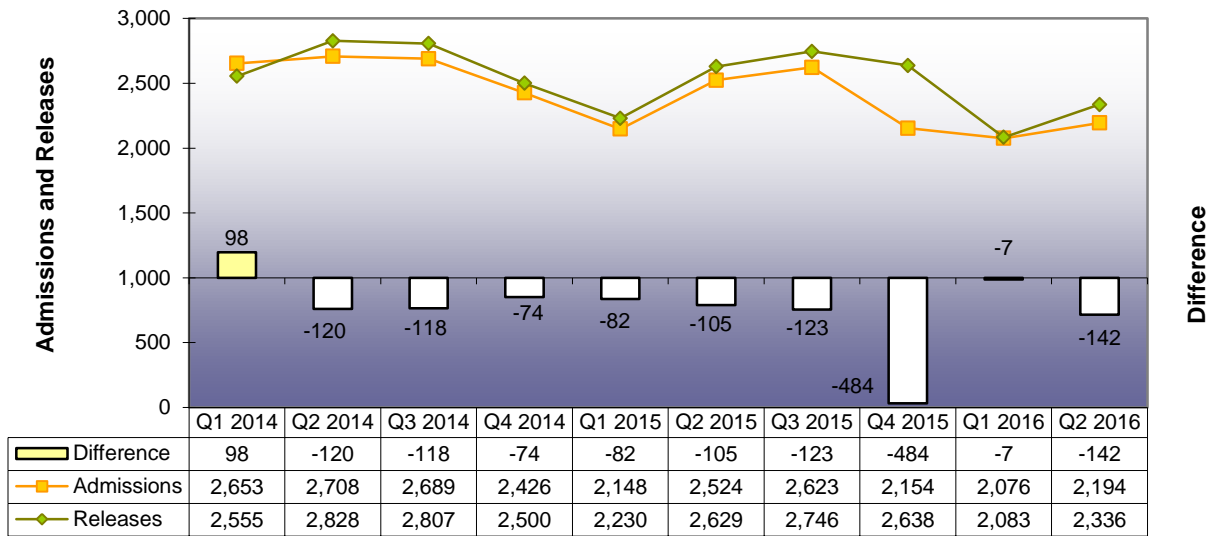
1.2 Average Quarterly Jurisdiction Population by Commitment Type



[‡] **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

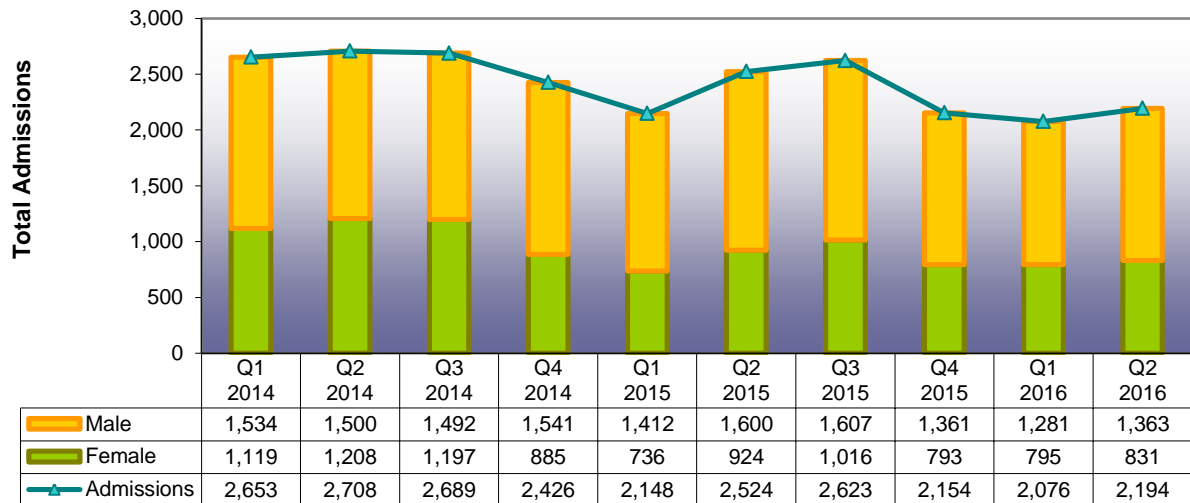
From the second quarter of 2014 to the second quarter of 2016, releases outpaced admissions (in Graph 1.3, below), with average admissions of 2,420 inmates per quarter and average releases of 2,535 inmates per quarter. The difference between the MA DOC **admissions**[§] and **releases** resulted in an average difference decrease of 116 inmates per quarter. The fourth quarter of 2015 experienced the largest difference between admissions and releases, a decrease of 484 inmates. The difference between admissions and releases resulted in a decrease in the population for nine consecutive quarters.

1.3 Overall Quarterly Admissions and Releases



Throughout the trend period, males accounted for 60.7% of the total admissions (Graph 1.4, below) and 62.1% of total releases (Graph 1.5, on the next page). The number of male admissions reached a high during the third quarter of 2015. The high in admissions was followed by two quarters of decrease, with male admissions declining by 20.3% and reaching a low for the trend during the first quarter of 2016. Both male and female admissions experienced slight increases between the first quarter of 2016 and the second quarter of 2016. The difference between admissions and releases resulted in an average decrease of 104 male inmates per quarter and an average decrease of 12 female inmates each quarter.

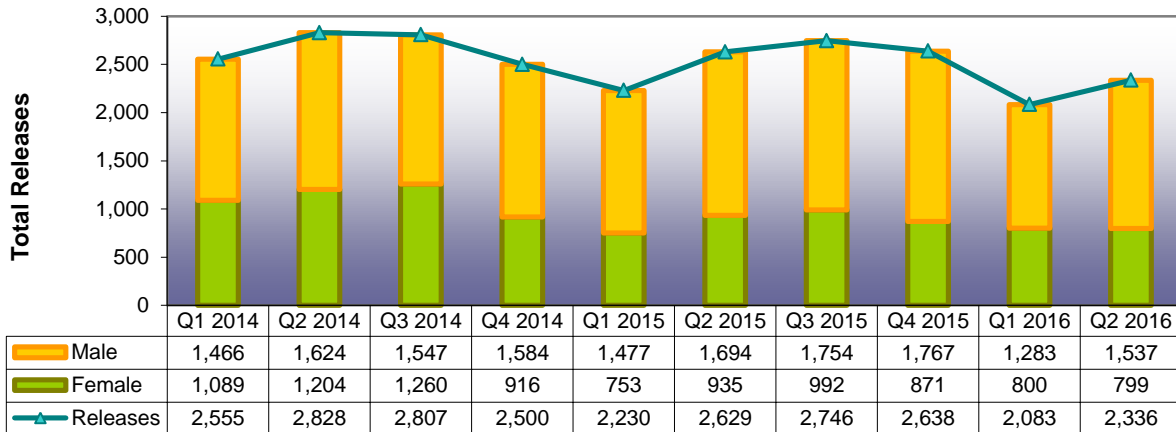
1.4 Total Quarterly Admissions by Gender



[§] **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

Male releases experienced a 27.4% decrease the first quarter of 2016 compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, dipping to a low of 1,283 releases. This decrease followed the highest three quarters of male releases for the trend. During the second quarter of 2016, male releases increased by 19.8% compared to the previous quarter. Female releases have decreased by 26.6% since the beginning of the trend, but have remained fairly steady over the last three quarters.

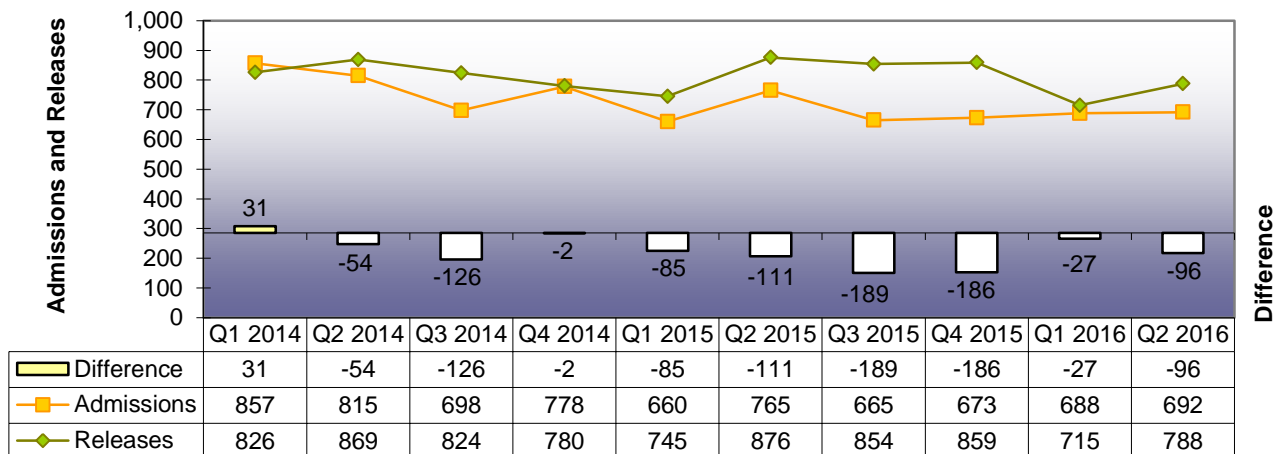
1.5 Total Quarterly Releases by Gender



CRIMINALLY SENTENCED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

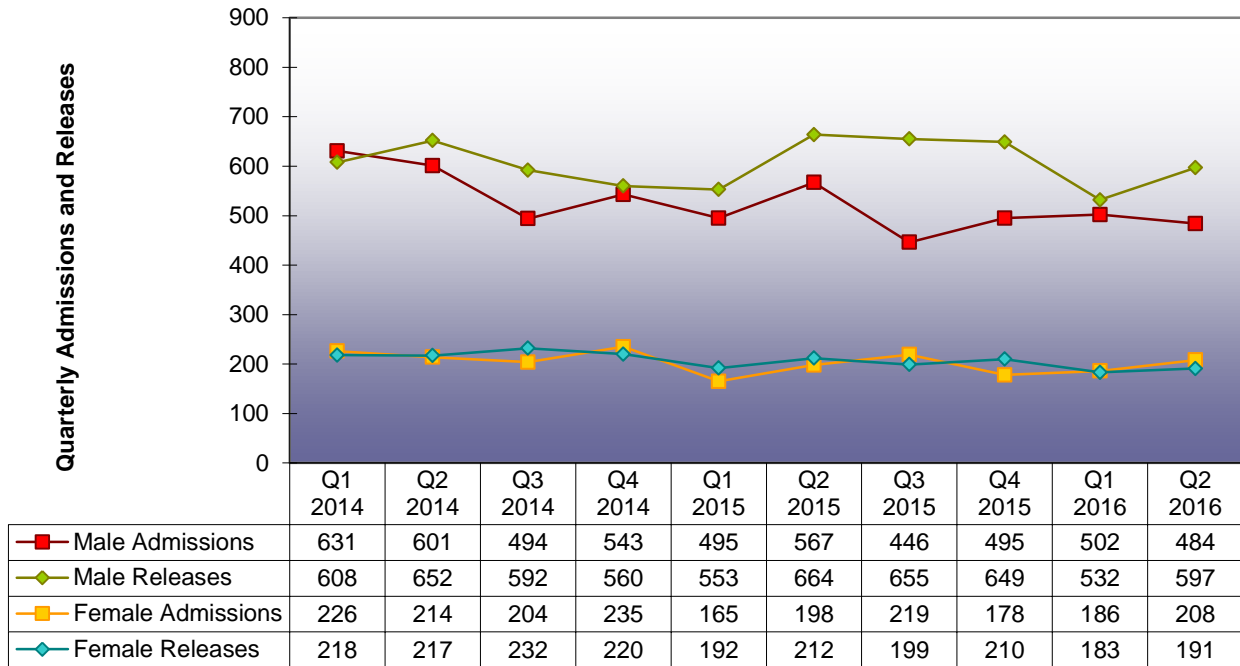
For the ten-quarter trend period, criminal admissions and releases (Graph 2.1, below) continued a downward trend. For all but the first quarter of 2014, there were fewer admissions than releases, leading to an average decrease of 85 criminally sentenced inmates each quarter. The third quarter of 2015 experienced the largest difference between admissions and releases of the trend period, with a decrease of 189 inmates. This pattern of releases far outpacing admissions continued into the fourth quarter, resulting in the second highest decrease of 186 inmates. On average, each quarter saw 729 admissions and 814 releases.

2.1 Overall Quarterly Criminal Admissions and Releases



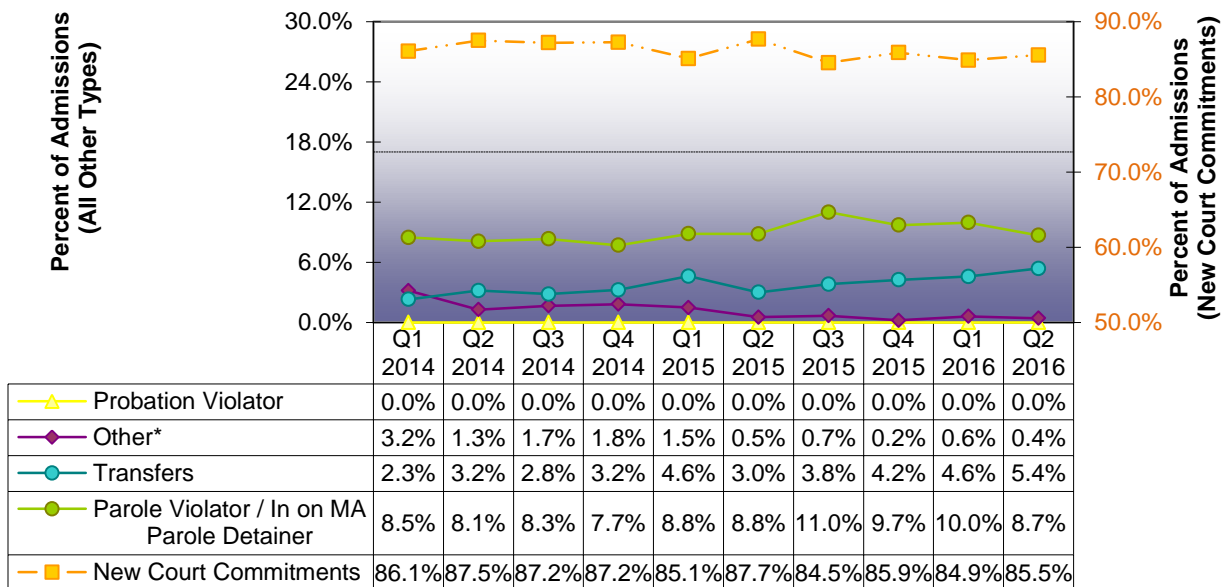
Graph 2.2, on the next page, shows criminally sentenced jurisdiction admissions and releases by sex. Criminally sentenced male inmates comprised 72.1% of admissions and 74.5% releases for the trend period and closely mirrored the overall criminal admissions and releases trend. In the third quarter of 2015, there was the largest difference for male criminal admissions and releases, a decrease of 209 inmates. Criminally sentenced female admissions remained steady, while female releases experienced a downward trend.

2.2 Quarterly Criminal Admissions and Releases by Gender



Male criminal admissions by admission type, shown in Graph 2.3, below, are split into two axes, with 'new court commitments' represented on the right axis and all other admission types represented on the left axis. 'New court commitments' were the most common type of male admission, and accounted for 86.2% of male criminal admissions over the trend period, with a range of 84.5% to 87.7% of admissions. The next two most common types of male admissions over the trend were '**parole**' violator/detainer' averaging 9%, and 'transfers' averaging 3.7%.

2.3 Male Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type

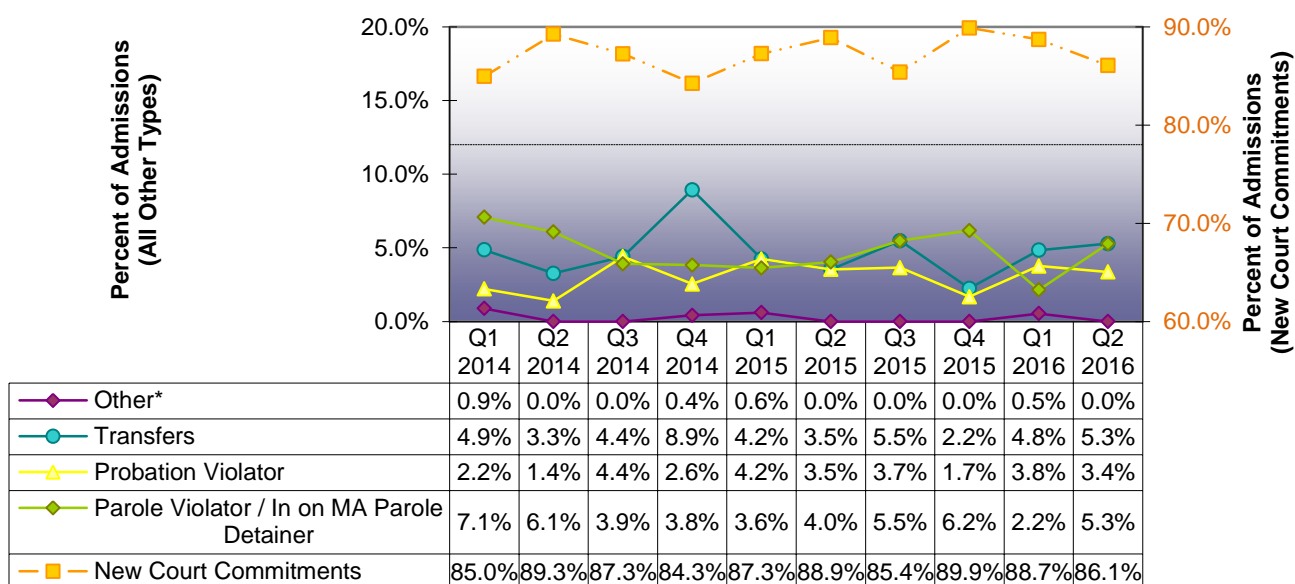


*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

** **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

Similar to male admissions, female criminally sentenced admissions (in Graph 2.4, below) were predominately 'new court commitments', with an average of 87.2% of admissions per quarter; followed by 'parole violator/detainers' and 'transfers', with averages of 4.8% and 4.7%, respectively. Females admitted as a 'probation violator' accounted for an average of 3.1% of admissions over the trend period. During the fourth quarter of 2014, female criminally sentenced 'transfer' admissions saw its highest number, with 8.9% of admissions for the quarter, due to a one-time intake of county inmates from Barnstable County due to security upgrades at their **House of Correction (HOC)**.^{††} Female new court commitments had its highest number during the fourth quarter of 2015, which accounted for 89.9% of female criminally sentenced admissions.

2.4 Female Quarterly Criminal Admissions by Admission Type



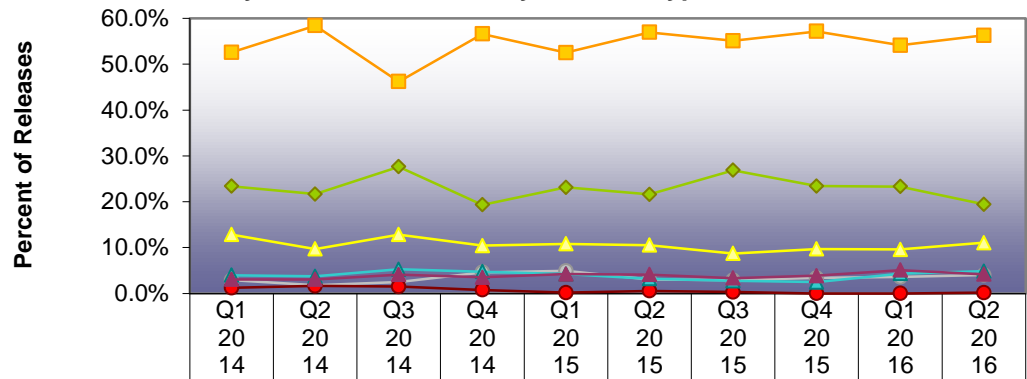
See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Admissions".

Graph 2.5, on the next page, shows male criminal releases by release type. **Releases to the community^{††}** due to **expiration of sentences** were the most common release type, which constituted 54.6% of male releases for the trend period. The second most common release type was 'parole to the street/release from parole detainer', with 23% of male criminal releases.

^{††} **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

^{‡‡} **Bolded** phrases are defined in the Appendix.

2.5 Male Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type

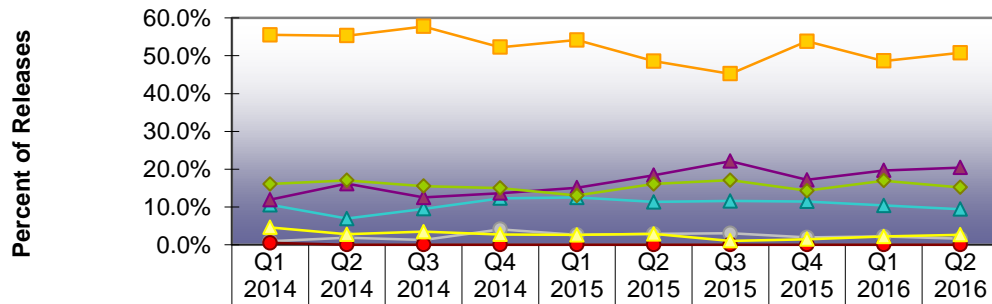


Other*	2.9%	1.8%	2.5%	4.6%	4.9%	3.0%	2.9%	3.4%	3.6%	4.0%
Crime Lab Release	1.2%	1.6%	1.5%	0.8%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	4.0%	3.7%	5.3%	4.8%	4.2%	3.2%	2.7%	2.5%	4.3%	4.9%
Transfers	3.1%	3.1%	4.1%	3.5%	4.2%	4.1%	3.4%	3.9%	5.1%	4.2%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	12.8%	9.7%	12.8%	10.4%	10.8%	10.5%	8.7%	9.7%	9.6%	11.1%
Parole to Street/Release from Parole Detainer	23.4%	21.7%	27.6%	19.3%	23.1%	21.6%	26.9%	23.4%	23.3%	19.4%
Expiration of Sentence to Street	52.6%	58.4%	46.2%	56.6%	52.5%	57.0%	55.1%	57.2%	54.1%	56.3%

See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Releases".

Female criminally sentenced releases (in Graph 2.6, below) were most commonly due to 'expiration of sentence to the street', with an average of 52.2% each quarter. The next two most common release types were 'transfers', averaging of 16.7%; and 'parole to street/release from parole detainer', averaging of 15.6% for the overall trend period. Over the trend period, 'transfers' had the strongest upward trend, while 'expiration of sentence to the street' saw the strongest downward trend.

2.6 Female Quarterly Criminal Releases by Release Type



Other*	0.9%	1.8%	1.3%	4.1%	2.6%	2.8%	3.0%	1.9%	2.2%	1.6%
Crime Lab Release	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Expiration/Parole to Outside Authority	4.6%	2.8%	3.4%	2.7%	2.6%	2.8%	1.0%	1.4%	2.2%	2.6%
Expiration/Parole to Warrant	10.6%	6.9%	9.5%	12.3%	12.5%	11.3%	11.6%	11.4%	10.4%	9.4%
Transfers	11.9%	16.1%	12.5%	13.6%	15.1%	18.4%	22.1%	17.1%	19.7%	20.4%
Parole to Street/Release from Parole Detainer	16.1%	17.1%	15.5%	15.0%	13.0%	16.0%	17.1%	14.3%	16.9%	15.2%
Expiration of Sentence to Street	55.5%	55.3%	57.8%	52.3%	54.2%	48.6%	45.2%	53.8%	48.6%	50.8%

*See Appendix for definition of "Other" under "Releases".

Over the trend period, Suffolk County accounted for 18.3% of the criminal new court commitments, followed by Essex and Middlesex (12.7%), Worcester and Bristol (12.1%), and Hampden (11.7%). For the majority of the trend period, Suffolk County accounted for the largest percentage of state, criminally sentenced new court commitments. Table 2.7, below, displays additional information of criminally sentenced new court commitments by sentencing jurisdiction.

2.7 State* Criminally Sentenced New Court Commitments by Court Jurisdiction

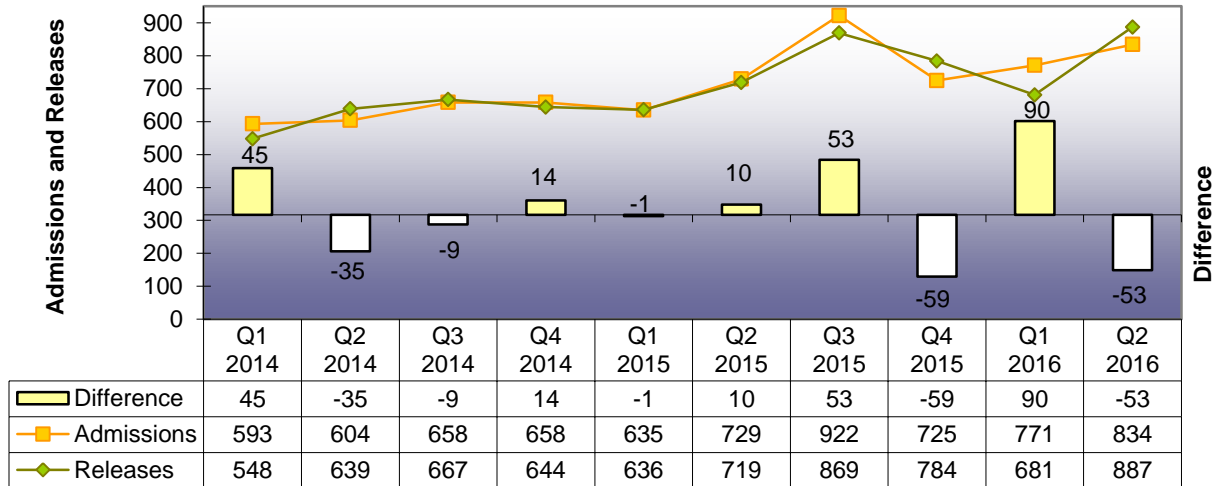
County	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Total
SUFFOLK	114	119	77	103	61	89	50	81	72	79	845
ESSEX	60	74	55	59	62	68	52	50	56	54	590
MIDDLESEX	63	70	56	66	42	51	43	84	53	59	587
WORCESTER	56	56	50	52	47	81	55	47	65	53	562
BRISTOL	61	71	60	63	42	47	55	64	44	54	561
HAMPDEN	63	47	43	40	85	72	52	37	64	37	540
PLYMOUTH	66	41	25	23	46	20	29	25	26	35	336
NORFOLK	25	12	36	32	19	32	18	24	24	19	241
BARNSTABLE	10	13	22	8	14	22	21	10	15	11	146
BERKSHIRE	14	3	15	13	11	13	10	7	10	9	105
HAMPSHIRE	8	5	4	9	7	6	6	3	5	3	56
FRANKLIN	13	8	3	5	7	6	0	5	4	3	54
DUKES	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
NANTUCKET	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total	554	522	446	474	443	507	391	437	439	416	4,629

*Excludes county, federal, and out-of-state inmates.

CIVILLY COMMITTED ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

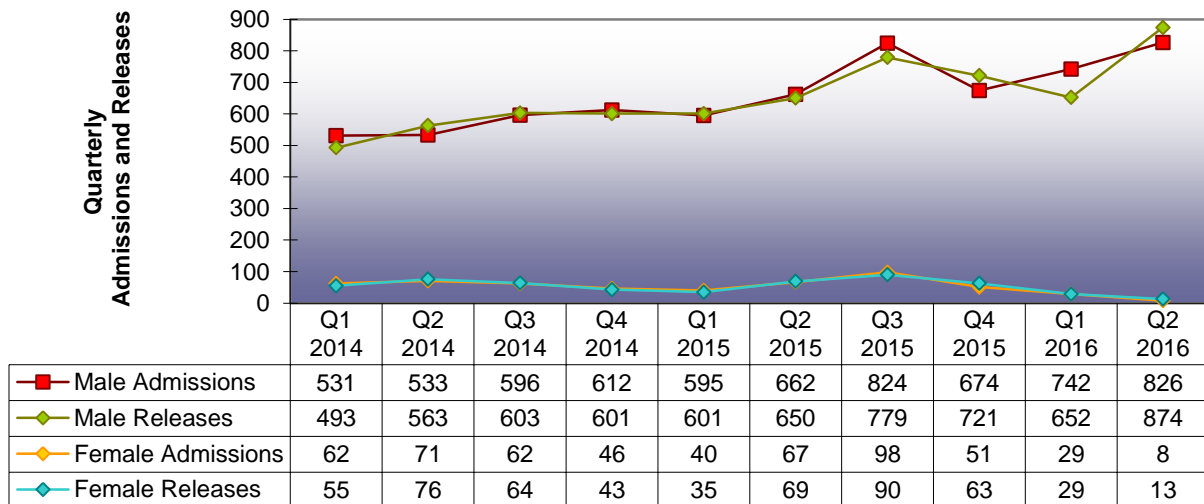
Both quarterly admissions and releases for civilly committed inmates had similar patterns throughout the trend period, as seen in Graph 3.1, below. The greatest difference between civil admissions and civil releases occurred between the fourth quarter of 2015 (a decrease of 59 civil commitments) and the first quarter of 2016 (an increase of 90 civil commitments). Compared to the previous quarter, the second quarter of 2016 experienced a 30.2% increase in civil releases; the higher number of civil releases than civil admissions resulted in a decrease of 53 civil commitments. Over the ten-quarter period, there was an average of 713 civil admissions and 707 civil releases per quarter.

3.1 Overall Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Quarter



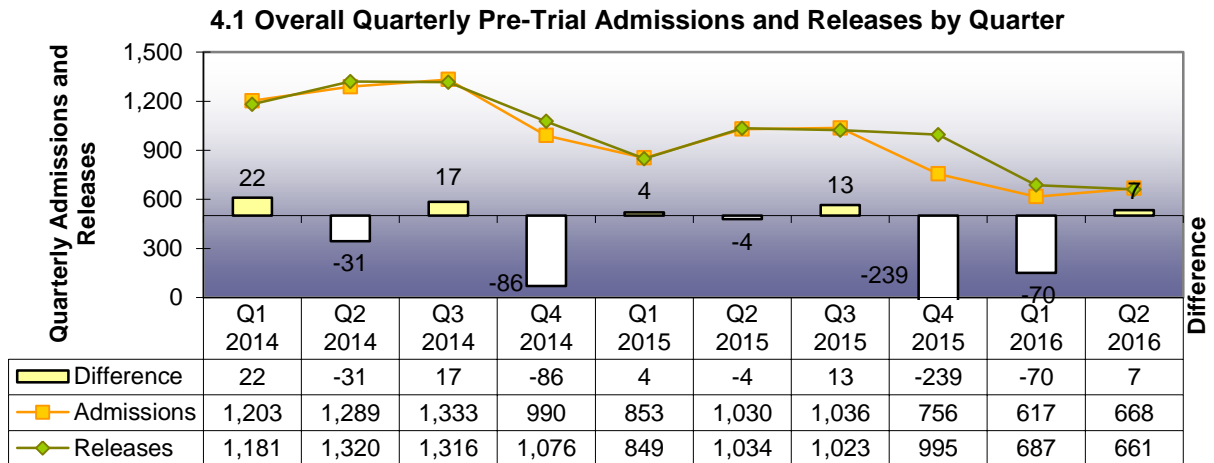
Male civilly committed admissions and civil releases (in Graph 3.2, below) experienced strong upward trends; from the first quarter of 2014 to the current quarter, male admissions increased by 55.6% and male releases increased by 77.2%. By contrast, female civil admissions and releases saw a notable downward trend; the second quarter of 2016 had the lowest numbers in both civil admissions and releases. Over the ten quarters, female civil admissions experienced a decrease of 87.1% and female civil releases experienced a decrease of 76.4%. There was a difference decrease of 3 female civil commitments and a difference increase of 58 male civil commitments over the trend period.

3.2 Quarterly Civil Admissions and Releases by Gender

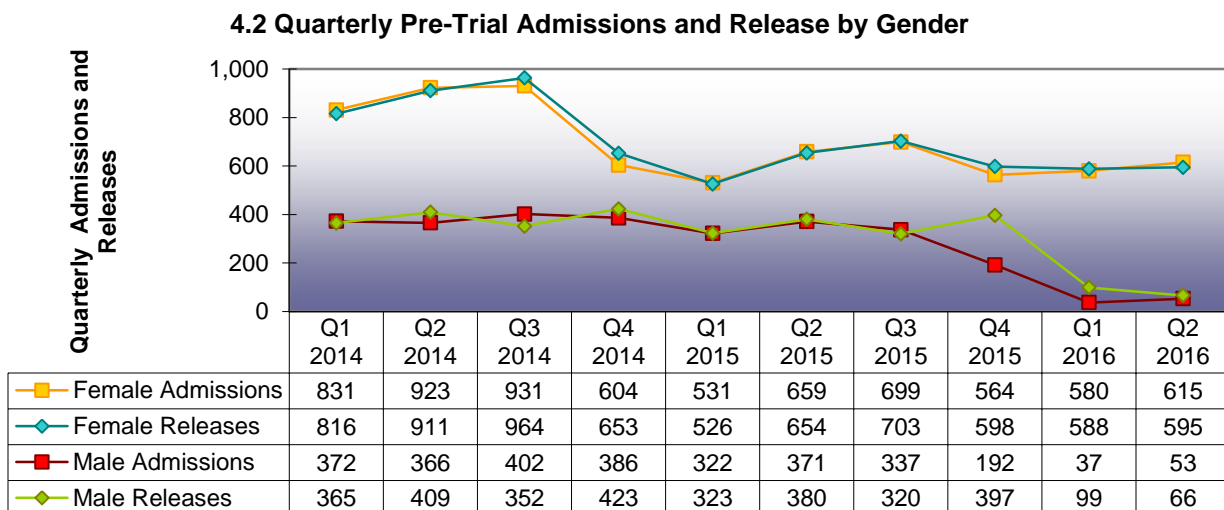


PRE-TRIAL ADMISSIONS AND RELEASES

Pre-trial admissions and releases, in Graph 4.1, below, continued to experience a strong downward trend for the ten-quarter period. During the fourth quarter of 2015, pre-trial admissions and releases both saw decreases; admissions in particular experienced a strong downward trend. The decrease in pre-trial admissions and releases continued into the first quarter of 2016, followed by an increase of 51 pre-trial admissions between the first and the second quarters of 2016. Over the trend period, there was a decrease of 535 pre-trial admissions and a decrease of 520 pre-trial releases. Pre-trial admissions averaged 978 per quarter and pre-trial releases averaged 1,014 per quarter. The cumulative difference between admissions and releases over the trend resulted in a decrease of 367 pre-trial detainees, the majority of which occurred during the fourth quarter of 2015.



As seen in Graph 4.2, below, female pre-trial admissions and releases had a downward trend, which closely mimicked the overall pre-trial trends. Male pre-trial admissions and releases were fairly stable until the steep decrease in male pre-trial admissions, which began in the fourth quarter of 2015. This decrease is attributed to the Middlesex County 52A court order^{§§} being vacated, and Suffolk County ceasing the transfer of 52A's into MA DOC custody. From the first quarter of 2014 to the current quarter, male pre-trial admissions decreased by 85.8% and male pre-trial releases decreased by 81.9%. Overall, pre-trial females had a cumulative difference decrease of 71 pre-trial detainees and males saw a cumulative difference decrease of 296 pre-trial detainees.



^{§§} Pre-trial detainees could be sent directly to the MA DOC to be held awaiting trial if criteria of the court order was met.

The majority of male pre-trial admissions, in Table 4.3, below, came from the counties of Suffolk (52.5%) and Middlesex (32.1%). Since the third quarter of 2015, pre-trial admissions from both of these counties saw a steep decrease, which continued into the second quarter of 2016 due to the aforementioned trends in the reduction of 52A *** pre-trial males into MA DOC custody.

4.3 Male Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Total
Suffolk	217	197	216	213	167	202	181	90	5	3	1,491
Middlesex	106	130	130	129	100	111	121	74	5	5	911
Out-of-State	18	14	13	16	19	18	5	9	11	7	130
Worcester	13	12	11	5	10	8	7	1	2	2	71
Plymouth	7	3	10	9	10	10	6	5	5	3	68
Federal	6	0	9	4	1	16	2	1	1	24	64
Bristol	1	2	6	3	7	1	4	4	2	2	32
Essex	2	1	3	5	1	2	5	4	5	2	30
Norfolk	1	4	3	2	5	3	2	1	1	5	27
Barnstable	0	3	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	9
Hampden	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Mass Parole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dukes	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	372	366	402	386	322	371	337	192	37	53	2,838

As seen in Table 4.4, below, female pre-trials came predominately from the counties of Essex (31.4%), Middlesex (25.3%), Plymouth (17.3%), Norfolk (15.4%), and Worcester (9%). The most notable trend change occurred during the fourth quarter of 2014 when Worcester County female pre-trial detainees decreased from 187 to 3 admissions. This was due to the shift of county, pre-trial females to the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Hampden County.

4.4 Female Quarterly Pre-Trial Admissions by Jurisdiction

County	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Total
Essex	249	259	263	188	188	214	247	184	211	176	2,181
Middlesex	151	201	217	175	148	185	193	140	164	183	1,757
Plymouth	93	117	136	115	102	134	115	133	113	143	1,201
Norfolk	127	114	118	113	79	103	126	100	85	100	1,065
Worcester	201	221	187	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	622
Federal	3	3	4	2	4	4	13	1	4	10	48
Suffolk	2	5	4	4	5	9	0	3	2	1	35
Out-of-State	2	1	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	10
Bristol	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	6
Hampden	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	6
Mass Parole	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	4
Barnstable	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	831	923	931	604	531	659	699	564	580	615	6,939

*** Pre-trial detainees could be sent directly to the MA DOC to be held awaiting trial if criteria of the court order was met.

Appendix

Notes and Definitions

Note: This report examines admission and release trends over the past ten quarters for the Massachusetts Department of Correction (MA DOC). Unless otherwise stated, all trends in this report refer to the MA DOC jurisdiction population.

Note: Admission and release data for this report was gathered in September of 2016. Numbers in this report may vary slightly from numbers in other reports due to the continuous updating of data and information in the Inmate Management System.

Admissions	Inmates or detainees committed to a MA DOC facility as a “new court commitment”, “parole violator”, “transfer”, “probation violator”, “pre-trial detainee”, a “civil commitment” or other admission through legal means. “Other” admissions include: “Re-admit from Court Release” and “Return from Escape”.
Civil Commitment or “Civil”	The involuntary commitment of an individual via legal means to incarcerate an individual against their will.
Criminally Sentenced	An individual who has been found guilty of a criminal offense through legal means, and is required to be incarcerated.
Custody Population	An inmate that is incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facility.
Expiration of Sentence (Release)	An inmate is discharged from his sentence at the expiration of his term, less any statutory or earned good time. Statutory good time was eliminated for all offenses committed after June 30, 1994, due to the enactment of the “Truth in Sentencing” law.
HOC	House of Correction, i.e. county jail.
Jurisdiction Population	An individual is considered to be under Massachusetts DOC jurisdiction when the Commonwealth has legal authority over the individual regardless of where the inmate is being held to include those incarcerated in Massachusetts DOC facilities as well as those housed in correctional facilities outside of the Massachusetts DOC (Massachusetts Houses of Correction, other state’s correctional facilities and the Federal Bureau of Prisons).
MA DOC	Massachusetts Department of Correction, i.e. state prison.
Parole (Releases)	Inmates released on parole are under the supervision of parole while in the community and may be re-incarcerated for violating the terms of their supervision. Unless otherwise specified, parole to other authority may include: “Parole to Out of State Sentence”, “Parole to Federal Authority”, “Parole to Immigration”, “Parole to From & After HOC Sentence”, “Parole to Warrant”, “Parole to From & After DOC Sentence”, or “Parole to Civil Commitment”.
Pre-Trial Detainee	An individual who is detained prior to trial, but not yet convicted of a crime to include male and female county detainees, male county detainees transferred to state facilities under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 276, section 52A, and federal detainees (both male and female).

Releases

A release occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of expiration of sentence, parole, a non-DOC release to other jurisdiction, a court release or other legal release from the custody of MA DOC. "Other" releases include: "HABEAS to Court – Received Forthwith Sentence", "Escape", "Death", "Court Release – Sentence Revoked", and "Release to From and After at DOC."

Release to Community

A release to community occurs when an inmate is released from the custody of the Massachusetts DOC by way of parole or discharge to the community. Conditions warranting a release to community include: Parole, Good Conduct Discharge (GCD), Expiration of Sentence, and court release.